

MAESTEG SCHOOL

Ffordd Dysgu
MAESTEG
Bridgend
CF34 0LQ



Ffordd Dysgu
MAESTEG
Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr
CF34 0LQ

Tel: [01656] 815950 Fax: [01656] 815954

Ffon: [01656] 815950 Ffacs: [01656] 815954

E-mail / E-bost: maestegschool.maesteg@bridgend.gov.uk

Website / Gwefan: www.maestegcs.bridgend.sch.uk

Headteacher / Pennaeth: H. Jones B.A. (Hons) N.P.Q.H.

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Re: Updated Home Learning Package (25th January 2021)

Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported our pupils through their online learning experiences so far! You will hopefully now be aware of the Education Minister's decision that pupils who were due to complete exams this summer will no longer be required to sit external assessments of any kind. This means that teachers will be required to award grades following a very thorough assessment plan. It is **now essential** that all pupils aim to produce their very best efforts to complete the work set by their teachers in order that we compile the evidence required to award the final grade. Our learners **MUST** engage with online learning - this is where your teachers can help and support you.

From Monday 25th January we expect ALL pupils to log into their timetabled tutor sessions to receive additional support from their form tutors.

Tutor Time & Pastoral Support

All pupils **must** check in with their form teacher using their Tutor Team every Monday from 8.40am-9.40am.

It is essential that all pupils log on during this time for a well-being check and to discuss with their tutor any issues they might be having. During this time, pupils will also be encouraged to access a range of documents and videos in their form TEAMS file area on a range of topics relevant to their life as a remote learner. Please note that any pupil not appearing in this tutor hour will receive a well-being phone call later in the week to check there are no problems.

Logging on and interacting is therefore a must for every pupil. On every other school day, tutors will also be available on the TEAMS tutor group between 8.40am-8.55am to support pupils and answer any questions.

We would encourage both you and all pupils to use these sessions to communicate to us anything we can do to support further at this time. Please note that this addition to provision will begin from **Monday 25th January** and for most pupils will replace the fortnightly contact we have used to date.

Timetabled Lessons and Blended Learning

Pupils will continue to follow their usual timetable lessons 1 to 5 every day and will therefore receive interaction with their teachers. As a minimum, teachers will be online for the first ten minutes and last ten minutes of the lesson to support pupils with questions about the work etc.

Please encourage your son/ daughter as far as possible to follow their timetable, including breaks and lunch. The rest and relaxation time is as important as the lessons. The school day is set out in the table below to follow.

Lesson / Break	Time
Lesson 1	8.55am - 9.55am
Lesson 2	9.55am - 10.55am
Break	10.55am - 11.15am
Lesson 3	11.15am - 12.15pm
Lesson 4	12.15pm - 1.15pm
Lunch	1.15pm -1.50pm
Lesson 5	1.50pm - 2.50pm

What can pupils expect?

We are offering a blended learning approach which can include live interaction with pupils, recordings from a teacher, independent work for pupils to complete, feedback sessions and questions and answer drop ins. All of which, give pupils a variety of experiences, similar, to what they would have experienced in the classroom.

Live interaction might include the teacher being online at the start and end of the lesson, using the chat box to communicate with pupils to check understanding of the work set. It might also include teachers using their voice and / or face to interact with pupils for the whole or part of a lesson. The approach chosen by each individual teacher will be the one that he or she feels is the most suitable for the activity/ task or topic and best supports the planned learning.

Despite the recent announcements from Welsh Government regarding the assessment of GCSE, AS and A level grades, it remains vitally important that all pupils continue to focus on engaging with and completing the work set by their teachers. Therefore, from Monday, **we will be monitoring pupil engagement in lessons** as well as the work completed and/ or submitted.

Finally, I can appreciate the difficulties with home learning is especially compounded when parents, carers and children are working and at home at the same time and devices/ WiFi need to be shared. Please let your son / daughter's form tutor know if there is anything we can do to help as far as these barriers are concerned. Meeting the learning needs of all pupils and their families is indeed a challenge but please be assured that we are continually looking at our home-learning model and striving to address the needs of all our learners.

If you require any further information then please do not hesitate to get in touch with your son/ daughter's tutor, the Progress Leader or myself. Please stay safe and I look forward to a time when we can all get back to normal.

Kind Regards

Kate Cavendish

Assistant Headteacher.

Motivated to Strive / Ysgogi i Ymdrechu

